# Social Services Orientation Laboratory (with an Emotional Awareness Module)

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**Social Services Orientation Laboratory 1** **Prof. Briganti Veronica, Prof. Orlandini Giorgia Giulia, Prof. Schiavello Annalisa, Prof. Zucchetti Benedetta.**

***COURSE AIMS AND INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES***

The course supports students in an initial exploration of their own attitudes towards the Other, their own territory and communities, and of the main public and private local welfare structures.

The course offers attending students the chance to confirm their educational choice, approaching the typical themes of social work, as well as the opportunity to share reflections using the group as a tool. These experiences allow students to experience cooperative relations first hand, encouraging them to develop critical thinking and improving their communicative skill.

The Social Service Guidance workshop will then prepare students for their first supervised placement experience as a means of acquiring practical skills that will benefit them when interpreting their experience afterwards in class.

*Intended learning outcomes*

By the end of the course, students will be able to understand the nature and personal and professional demands of the “profession” of social worker, so that they can continue more decisively and with more motivation on the course.

***COURSE CONTENT***

1. Introduction: starting group work from the perspective of reciprocity.

2. Analysis of initial expectations in relation to their own course and to their professional future: motivations, expectations, strengths, challenges and potential obstacles.

3. Social Work from the “user’s” perspective: Becoming familiar with the life experiences and situations in the local area; entering into contact with service users and their families.

4. Preparing for experience in the field: practical instructions and constructing instruments to observe and contextualise social problems and the main local responses; gaining awareness of oneself and of the experiences of others; developing initial professional learning.

5. Support in independent research during the first apprenticeship.

6. Reprocessing, through teamwork, experience gained in the field and presented in class.

***READING LIST***

Details of further reading material will be provided by lecturers-tutors during the year.

***TEACHING METHOD***

The *Social Service Guidance* workshop comprises weekly three-hour sessions throughout semester 1 and 2.

The teaching style is non-frontal. Sessions will be group focused (with some tasks in small subgroups) and include meetings with “experts by experience” (users and family) and social workers (professional and volunteer). Students will also study video clips and make presentations in class. There will be regular individual interviews with the lecturer.

Students will take turns to take minutes and draft individual and/or group reports.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

The final assessment of the Social Service Orientation workshop will be oral and in the presence of a small commission made up of other teachers and tutors, upon submission and approval of an essay. The essay topic will be provided by the lecturers during the course.

The assessment will include the entire workshop course, the written works required during the year , the final essay and the oral exam.

The final mark will be out of 30.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

Students must attend at least two thirds of the total hours in order to achieve the objectives.

The workshop has no prerequisites in terms of content. However, students are expected to participate actively and to demonstrate interest, creativity, motivation and commitment.

In case the current Covid-19 health emergency does not allow frontal teaching, remote teaching and assessment will be carried out following procedures that will be promptly notified to students.

Further information can be found on the lecturer's webpage at http://docenti.unicatt.it/web/searchByName.do?language=ENG or on the Faculty notice board.

# *Emotional Awareness module* (Prof. Sara Petoletti, Prof. Nicoletta Pirovano; Prof. Anna Visconti di Massino)

***COURSE AIMS AND INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES***

The module aims to provide students with a space and a time to name feelings and emotions related to their professional choice and their encounter with the reality of social services. Small, regular groups will be the appropriate place for students to discuss, explore and examine the emotional experience that students will learn about during the academic year and thus verify their interest in this job and its subjective implications under the guidance of an expert facilitator. Working in groups will provide students with a protected context in which to ask questions, express fears, doubts and discoveries about the weight and responsibilities that carrying out this profession entails, so that everyone can better be ready for their future work

*Intended learning outcomes*

At the end of the course, students will have increased their awareness of their personal experience and how important it is in the job of a social worker.

***COURSE CONTENT***

The emotional awareness module is structured to foster active group participation. It has an open and flexible structure and allows content emerging from students’ experience and sensitivities. Students’ emotional insight is actively encouraged through discussion.

***TEACHING METHOD***

The module comprises 7 ninety-minute meetings in small groups, for a total of 10.5 hours per group throughout the second semester.

The teaching method will be group focused and will use techniques to actively involve students through discussion and experiential learning.

Note that the laboratory requires, by its very nature, students’ attendance. Any difficulties in attending should be reported to the teacher in charge of the workshop, who, if possible, will discuss alternatives with the student.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Students will be assessed individually and will either obtain an approved/ not-approved evaluation. Students are assessed on active participation and respect towards classroom agreements as set at the beginning of the course.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

There are no prerequisites in terms of content. However, attendance is compulsory for 2/3 of the total hours of the course.

Further information can be found on the lecturer's webpage at http://docenti.unicatt.it/web/searchByName.do?language=ENG or on the Faculty notice board.